

SAMPLE LETTER

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Return Receipt Requested

April 16, 2007

AI #11111

LELAP Cert #01111

Laboratory Director
LDEQ Laboratory
123 Main
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: Accreditation and the EPA Water Methods Update Rule (MUR)

Dear Laboratory Director:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of recent changes in Federal Regulations, to explain what the Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (LELAP) is doing in response to those changes, and to provide guidance as to what your laboratory needs to do in order to ensure that your laboratory's scope of accreditation includes all of the methods needed to meet the regulatory requirements and the needs of your clients.

As you may be aware, there have been significant changes in the list of EPA-approved tests and sampling procedures under the Clean Water Act and National Drinking Water regulations. Two separate revisions to 40 CFR 136 have been published in the Federal Register, and are referred to collectively as the Methods Update Rule (MUR). The MUR grants approval for a number of new and revised methods, and withdraws approval for a substantial number of methods that had previously been approved.

The full text of the two Final Rules that implement the MUR can be downloaded in PDF format from the following links:

- Federal Register / Vol. 72, No. 47 / Monday, March 12, 2007 / Rules and Regulations
<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2007/March/Day-12/w1073.pdf>
- Federal Register / Vol. 72, No. 57 / Monday, March 26, 2007 / Rules and Regulations
<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2007/March/Day-26/w1455.pdf>

The MUR shall be implemented by LDEQ in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Permittees may continue to use previously approved methods until their laboratory is accredited for the newly approved methods in the most recent version of 40 CFR 136, as per the MUR cited above.
2. The Department will initiate action to address permits that specify analytical methods that are no longer approved in the recent version of 40 CFR 136.

You are encouraged to review your scope of accreditation to determine whether it will be necessary for you to request a change to include any of the newly-approved methods. All requests for changes in the scope of accreditation must be submitted to LELAP in writing, and must specifically identify the matrix, method(s), and analyte(s) to be added. Requests for scope changes will be handled as follows:

1. If the laboratory is currently accredited for an analyte by a method that uses the same technology as a newly-approved method, then the new method may be added to the scope of accreditation upon written request.
2. If the laboratory is not accredited for a method that uses the same technology as the new method, then the new method cannot be added until after the laboratory has been assessed for that method.
3. Laboratories are encouraged to continue to maintain accreditation for the older methods until no longer needed by clients and/or until such time as they receive accreditation for the new methods.

For those labs that are eligible to be accredited for new methods according to the criteria listed above, the type of accreditation granted (NELAP or STATE) will be determined as follows:

1. If LELAP is the Primary Accrediting Authority (AA), then LELAP will grant the same type of accreditation for the new method as what had previously been granted for the old method.
2. If LELAP is a Secondary AA **and** the Primary AA has granted accreditation for the new method, then LELAP will grant the same type of accreditation for the new method as what has been granted by the Primary AA.
3. If LELAP is a Secondary AA for the old method, but the Primary AA has not yet granted accreditation for the new method, then LELAP will grant temporary

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Louisiana "STATE" accreditation for the new method. This temporary accreditation will remain in effect until June 30, 2008, after which time the laboratory will have to be accredited by the Primary AA in order to retain accreditation for that method in Louisiana.

LELAP is committed to providing the necessary assistance to meet the accreditation needs of the laboratory community. Specifically, LELAP will work with laboratories on a case by case basis to avoid any lapse in LELAP/NELAP coverage. If you have any questions regarding laboratory accreditation, please contact Karen S. Varnado, Laboratory Services Division, OEA LELAP, at (225) 219-9800. All questions regarding test method requirements or other LDEQ permit related questions should be directed to Gary Aydell, Water Permits Division, OES, at (225) 219-3002.

Sincerely,

Melvin C. Mitchell Sr., Administrator
Laboratory Services Division

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